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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **March 2016**

President's Message

Well. it's that time again: SPRING! I myself am looking forward to taking some time off from my job and taking my HF and VHF/UHF rigs along with a few antennas up to somewhere in the mountains to have some fun without the hassles of snow and/or ice since I dealt with both in my past living in another region of the USA. In about 4 months, the annual ARRL Field Day event will be upon everyone and seeing that we have secured a new club meeting location, there is the possibility of holding the Field Day event at the new club meeting location. But to do so will require the efforts of certain club members. Who are these members? I don't rightly know at the moment, but everyone will with the next club meeting. I'm looking for any one club member that would like to give an amateur radio related subject presentation. It's OK if it's just a simple subject or if its complex. I want to thank Brian, KK6BXP for his presentation at the February meeting and perhaps in a near future, he can give another presentation. Since the meeting room has at its disposal a nice wide screen TV monitor, perhaps future presentations could take advantage of such equipment.

In the next month or so, I'm going to come up with a few ideas or suggestions for our club officials to consider and/or act upon for the betterment of the radio club. As with my own involvement with amateur radio, I'm been busy in getting all of my QSL cards out to those with whom I've QSO'd with over the past 2 years. Yes, two years' worth and why didn't I send them out sooner instead of procrastinating the task? Well, sometimes a task becomes so huge that more time is needed to think about how to

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VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB - FEB MEETING NOTES

First order was thanking Tom KE6MDM for getting us over to the new meeting facility at the Nut Tree Airport. Meeting time starts at 7 PM, which will be the starting time until we get some officers back so that the 1/2 hour board member meeting can commence again. once this happens the general meeting start time will roll back to 7:30 PM

Frank KJ6RWQ followed up with getting us booth space at the Vacaville Farmers Market. This will get the exposure that has been lacking and potential growth in membership and club abilities in the future.

We had a visitor from a former member, Art Aronsen WD6BXQ. It was good to see previous members stopping in.

Clarification for who is running the Tuesday night nets on which week:
1st week KJ6SCC Jerry
2nd week Kim KJ6JNX
3rd week Frank KJ6RWQ
4th week Brian KK6BXP
5th week Bob K6HEW

Roll call for the Tuesday nets will have all paid up members called in 1st. Those within the 90 day grace period, second. after the 90 day mark is passed, the unpaid member will be promoted to guest status.

Brian KK6BXP, would like to know what bands you can actually operation from 160M to 23cm or higher. the plans is to have an overall understanding of what band can be used by the majority of the members of VVRC.

Also touched on was doing a pre or post net on other bands and or modes. This will come into play on the feedback the Brian KK6BXP gets on 'what bands you can' results. Frank KJ6RWQ will be sending out an email in March regarding this topic.

Continued on page 2

President's Message Continued

tackle the task which leads to another occasion and so forth. The bands lately have been a bit disappointing as the conditions I found back a few years ago are not exactly what I would say are "user friendly" these days. If I just had a decent antenna I could rotate and a decent amplifier. I guess that my wishes haven't made it to Santa Claus - yet! At the upcoming club meeting, I am going to revisit the 14 item agenda I laid out in January at the last meeting held out in Elmira and I'm hoping for a good engaging discussion of them.

Well, that's about all I have for this March 2016 newsletter!

Marcus MacClean, KI6WDX

Meeting Notes continued

It's time to pick a direction. This is in relation to our president's letter sent out at the beginning of the year. Time for sitting on the hands is over with. This vote is for what the plan will be and will happen in the March meeting. For those unable to attend, I will send out an email to get the absentees input. VVRC must make a decision to what we are doing as a club. Topic revisited by Bruce N6THN.

It was decided the club would reimburse Jerry Olive KD6WKY money spent for Merriment on Main related items. Also mentioned, that in the future, any member or outside entity must get approval from the voting members ***prior to any*** expense to be paid by the club. No reimbursements will happen if the guidelines that exist are not followed.

March's Elmer presentation topic will be by Bob K6HEW on cross band repeaters. April and May is still open for topics & presenters.

Field day site: Vidal house, Nut Tree Airport or other site is to be determined.

See you at the March meeting & listening for you Tuesdays, 73

Brian KK6BXP

Thank You

I want to thank the Vaca Valley Radio Club for responding to my request for reimbursement of Merriment on Main expenses with a partial reimbursement of $34.60. We had a lot of fun with 17 volunteers; the most ever.

Seventy-Three!

Jerry Olive, KD6WKY

2015 Merriment on Main Co-Organizer

You Are Missed

Two of our members have been missing now for a few weeks with medical problems.

KJ6MIB, Richard Craig, at Vacaville and K6DME, Ruff Gunn, at Woodland have for several years been valuable assets for the club and we look forward to your speedy recovery soon.

Please contact any club member if there is anything we can do to help.

From the members of the VacaValleyRadio Club

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM 330 Nut Tree Road, (Nut Tree Airport)

Wheelchair accessible

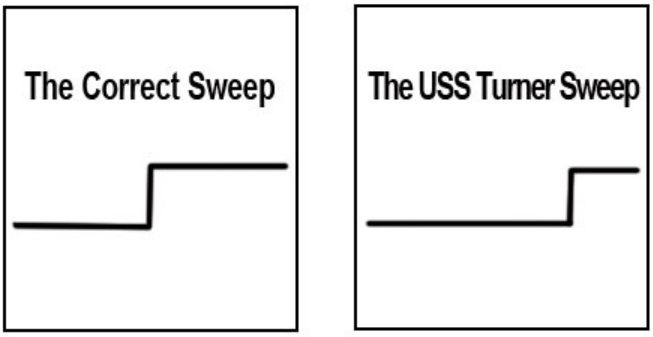
Thrift Store Parts on a US Navy Ship

How We Satisfied the Company Representative

By Jack Ward

I was a Naval Fire Control Technician aboard the naval destroyer **USS Turner** nearly 60 years ago. That doesn't mean that I fought fires. My team and I were responsible for operating and maintaining the equipment that aimed the ship's guns. My story is about the GFCS (Gun Fire Control System) and its 600 vacuum tubes. One of the cathode ray tubes (CRT) for the GFCS displayed a sweep that had a step in it.

The step was supposed to be in the center of the screen, but ours was located to the far right. It was completely cosmetic. The equipment worked just fine no matter where the step was located, but whenever a representative from the manufacturer came to inspect it, we were criticized.



We finally traced the problem to a **6H6 vacuum tube**. There were no transistors back then, the closest thing we had were some solid state diodes. As with many tubes, there were various versions—for instance, a 6H6 might be glass or metal and could be short or tall. Under most circumstances these tubes were interchangeable, except as we discovered, one specific type placed the step in the ideal center position and another type moved the step far right.

Once we figured this out, it was just a matter of getting the right tube, but unfortunately it was no longer available from the ship's store. Since government purchasing decided that there was no need for this specific tube type, it would seem that we had reached a dead-end. We saw it as our mission to avoid criticism though, and we were eager to correct the only discrepancy the factory representative could find.

Then it hit me one day while I was moseying down Thames Street in the ship's home port of Newport, Rhode Island. I discovered a little thrift shop owned by a really nice old fellow. He collected old TVs and radios and tried to either repair them or salvage their parts. He had accumulated tube boxes and after re-labeling, he filled them with used tubes that read "good" on his tube tester. I aimed my sights on one box and began my hunt for the exact 6H6 tube we needed to get the proper display.

Eureka! I found not one, but two tubes that fit the bill, and I was even able to buy them with my meager pay. They worked perfectly and for the rest of my tour of duty we received excellent reports from the factory representative.

That's right, there's a million dollar Gun Fire Control System ready to fight a war that's operating with a used vacuum tube removed from a Newport resident's discarded TV! I guess we never really know where our old parts end up.

Jack Ward's hobbies include Ham Radio (K9ZQJ), computer graphics, creating brochures and stitching together multiple photos to print 44 inch long panoramic photos.

Note: This article brought back old memories for me. This photo taken in 1959 with me in front of the USS Kawishiwi, AO-146's forward Mk 56 gun fire control system console that I was in charge of. I believe Jack Ward's article was about this system. The scope in the center of the three had the display he describes and a target would show up as a blip on the display's step, which could then be locked on in automatic tracking. I was still a licensed ham with the call letters W6BIB at the time. Just think, all this can fit on a chip today!

Jerry KJ6SCC

THE BIT BUCKET

Raccoon defies gravity, then thinks better of it

A photo of the raccoon, taken by a Toronto tower crane operator, is being widely shared on Twitter

A raccoon was photographed after climbing 200 metres up a crane in downtown Toronto.

By: Tamara Khandaker Staff Reporter, Published on Thu Apr 16 2015

A fearless raccoon who climbed more than 200 metres up a crane in Toronto briefly became Twitter-famous on Thursday after his photo was tweeted by a tower crane operator.

Rob MacFarlane, known for posting photos of the breathtaking views he's often exposed to on the job, took a photo of the raccoon clutching a ladder, looking a little apprehensive, with his eyes wide open.

Many people expressed concern for the animal's safety, but MacFarlane reassured everyone that it got back down unhurt, and that it was just as brave on its way down.

"They are the tortoise in the story," MacFarlane told the Star. "Not so fast, but efficient."

The raccoon had made the 213-metre climb overnight and was waiting for MacFarlane when he arrived at work.

When he got close, the raccoon stared at him blankly and hissed a bit. Seemingly annoyed by MacFarlane's presence, it then confidently made his descent to the ground.

Surprisingly, this was not the first time MacFarlane has encountered a raccoon so high off the ground, he said on Twitter. Face-to-face, this was the second incident, but he has seen "evidence" multiple times before.

"It's not unusual," he said. "Raccoons seem to like cranes."

Last week, Mayor John Tory (open John Tory's policard) unveiled new green bins that he hopes will outsmart Toronto's raccoons.

Instead of the silver latch that raccoons easily pop by knocking over the bin, the proposed new model features a turn-dial that locks the lid closed.

Today the mayor admitted that while we may have raccoon-proofed the new garbage receptacles, cranes are altogether a different story.

"I have not for a moment, ever, for one second, underestimated the intelligence the ingenuity and the determination of the raccoons in the sort of ongoing skirmishes we are having with them. But I would say while they may be able to climb a crane, I'm confident they're not going to be able to get into the green boxes... We're ready to roll them out and take them on in that regard. As for climbing a crane, I don't think that seems to be a widespread problem," he said.

With files from Wendy Gillis and David Rider

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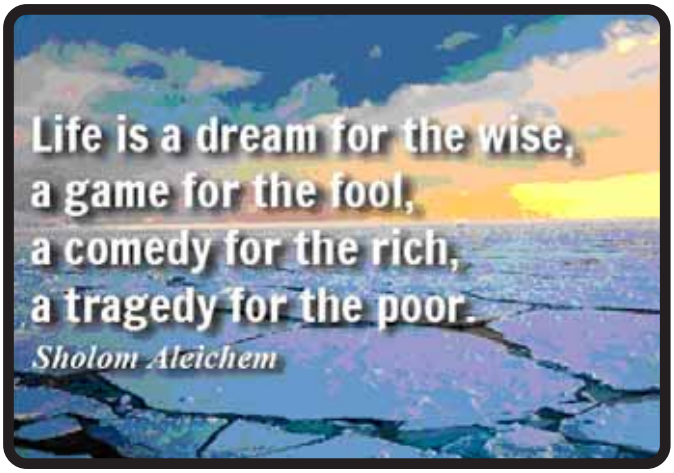
NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Kim Ware, KJ6JNX
3rd week of month-Frank Garay, KJ6RWQ
4th week of month-Brian Hagen, KK6BXP
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt, K6HEW



FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760 - available on the web at, http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001333714) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses.

Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise Part 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

2014 the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

may submit comments (http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=RM-11760) via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

"Ham Radio Now"

Hosting 2015 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference Video Presentations:

Full-length video of all major presentations at the 2015 ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) is now online, courtesy of "Ham Radio Now." This includes the 16 individual talks on subjects ranging from making a *WSPR* transmitter from a Raspberry Pi to advances in HF receiver testing to building your own networked satellite ground station. Each talk runs about 45 minutes. The DCC Sunday "Deep Dive" — 4 hours on a single topic —covered 3D modeling for Amateur Radio.

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Saturday night banquet speaker ARRL Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX, posed the question: "Ham Radio... Now What?" DCC videos are grouped in a YouTube Playlist.

VacaValley Radio Club's new meeting location a big improvement

The first meetings at the club's new digs at the Nut Tree airport were held during the February gathering.

First of all, it was great having a room with air-conditioning and heating.

The big black item in the upper-right corner of the photo is a large screen monitor complete with a cable to hook up to portable computers. It should greatly enhance presentations that are planned for the future.

All chairs and tables are on wheels and can be arrange easily during the meetings. Although it would probably not be a good idea to do projects that require construction the ability to arrange the furniture could enhance grouped dialogs. The current antenna project will be started at member's homes and assembled later at a designated place.

All in all, I think most members agree this will be a big improvement for the club.

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: w6vvr

Club repeater in Vacaville:w6vvr.net 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3 The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeater
WV6F 440.025(+)

Congratulations are in order for those who qualified for this award in spite of a raging storm that curtailed some operations during the night

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street: _____

City: _____Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$25.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____
Paid by CASH:	Check #	_____
DATE:		
TOTAL		_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143